Secrt. II-27—100,306—21-6-48.

Food & Agn (1948) Department.

Ms. SERIES.

G.O. No. 1227

1227

Dated 24 10 49

[Despatch Abstract.]

MEETINGS- Food and Agriculture Ministers' Conference held at New Delhi on 30-4-49 and 1-5-49- Proceedings of the conference- Papers- Recorded.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

PROCEEDINGS OF A CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD OF PROVINCES AND STATES, CALLED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON THE 30TH APRIL, AND IST MAY, 1949 AT NEW DELHI.

No.F.25/6/49-GMF
Government of India
New Delhi the 25th June,'49.

From

S.T. Raja, Esquire, B.A., LL.B., Bar-at-law,
Under Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

To

All Provincial Governments and the governments of Cochin, Travancore, P.E.P.S.U., Saurashtra, Hyderabad, Jammu and Kashmir, Matsya Union, Rajasthan and Mysore.

Sub: CONFERENCE OF PROVINCIAL AND STATE MINISTERS HELD AT NEW DELHI ON THE 30 th APRIL, AND IST MAY, 1949.

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith for information three copies of the final proceedings of the conference of Provincial and State Ministers held at New Delhi on the 30th April, and 1st May, 1949.

Yours faithfully,

Sd.
Under Secretary.

1. Copy forwarded for information to all the Chief Commissioners and the Governments of Madhya Bharat and Vindhya Pradesh.

2. Copy forwarded to the Ministry of States for information.

By Order,

Sd.
Under Secretary.

A Conference of the Provincial Ministers of Agriculture and Food, was called by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and was held in Delhi on the 30th April, and 1st May, 1949. A list of those who attended is attached. The agenda for the Conference was as follows:-

(1) Fixation of grain prices for the Kharif Crop- 1949-50.
(2) A Scheme for an Extention Service.
(3) Linking of procurement of grain with the supply of controlled materials.
(4) Decrease in the cropped area and increase in fallow land.
(5) Delays in the submission of figures of land utilisation by the Provinces.

The Honourable Shri Jiaramdas Doulatram, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India, presided.

The Chairman in his opening remarks, thanked the Provincial and State Ministers for having responded to his invitation at short notice. Explaining the objects of the Conference he said that the Government were faced with the problem of rising prices. They had taken all available expert advice and had come to the conclusion that the problem of inflation had to be attacked at the foundation by controlling the prices of the fundamental necessities of life. Controls had therefore been reimposed on Cloth and food; but the problem of fixing reasonable prices of these commidities still remained to be tackled. In addition to the problem of high prices, the Government had also to consider how the drain on the foreign exchange resources of the country for buying food abroad could be stopped. After careful consideration the Government had taken a decision that all imports of food grains should be stopped by 1951 except in case of a widespread failure of crops or for building up a reserve. The country must become self- sufficient by that time. In fixing prices the objective of maintaining and encouraging productions has therefore also to be kept in view. Another problem before Government was the fixation of cotton prices. A large part of the area growing better varieties of Cotton had gone to Pakistan and the country had become deficit in cotton. This deficit had to be overcome. It had been suggested to Government that there was a definite relationship betweenthe cotton and foodgrains prices. In order to induce the cultivators to make up their minds to grow cotton it was necessary to fix reasonable prices of cotton; but the problem was to increase the production of foodgrains as well as cotton, and to fix their prices at such a level and in such proportion that the danger of competition between the two was eliminated. He invited the opinions of the Provincial and States Ministers present on these problems. In the end he mentioned that Lord Byod Orr, who had been invited by the Government of India to advise them on food policy, would also be attending the Conference to meet the Ministers present.

The various items on the agenda were taken up in the following orders:---

ITEM NO: *1. FIXATION OF THE GRAIN PRICES FORTTHE KHARIF CROP-1949.50.

H.M. Food and Civil Supplies, Bombay, agreed that foodgrain prices had risen very high but he was not in favour of price revision at this stage. He was of the opinion that:--

1. A review of the cost of production of foodgrains should be made before any attempt at price fixation was made;

2. The proposal to confine a revision of prices only to those provinces where prices were high was not correct; price revision should be attempted for the country as a whole otherwise the effect on the minds of the cultivators in those provinces would be bad and procurement would suffer.

The success of procurement in the various provinces should be examined. In some provinces procurement had not been effective and there was also a black market. In Bombay the procurement price was effective and the procurement targets had been exceeded. This had been possible only because the procurement price was reasonable. In his opinion monopoly procurement should be extended to the whole country.

He was also against the proposed increase in cotton prices.

Honourable Minister for Madras: endorsed the view of H.M. Bombay. He was against a reduction in the grain prices as well as an increase in the cotton prices. The prices in Madras, he said, were the lowest in the country and any further decrease would effect procurement and result in smuggling Monopoly procurement coould work successfully only on the basis of reasonable prices, but he did not a gree with the suggestion of H.M. Bombay that there should be an All- India reduction, if any was necessary. Prices could be reduced only where they were high. Giving the figures of procurement he said that out of a target of 15 lakh tons they had already procured 9 lakh tons and were confident of reaching the target. An assurance had been given to the cultivators that the prices at which paddy was being procured would be continued, in the next year. It was therefore not possible to make any change in the price at this stage.

HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, U.P. stated that seasonal conditions for the production of cottong were not favourable in the Province. The food situation in the Province demanded that cotton should not compete with food crops; but unfortunately under the conditions existing in the Province, cash crops like sugarcane and oilseeds are not grown in the area in which cotton could be grown, because of the special seasonal requirements of the former. By special arragements however, of supply water through canals, cotton could be grown if it was sown early, but only at the expense of food crops and fodder crops. There was a decline in the area under cottong in the Province because cotton prices were determined by the world conditions to a greater extent than those of ceraials and also becuase there a is a lack of patronage of cotton growers by the textile industry and the fact that they stopped the bonus when the areas had sufficiently developed. The raising of the cottong index to the level of wheat would add to the inflationery spiral. It was doubtufl if any increase in the price of cotton would lead to an increase in cotton production. On the other hand, it was likley to affect adversely the area under food grains and would disturb and present level of foodgrain prices.

HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, C.P: said that the prices of foodgrains were very high and should be reduced but this could be done only on the basis of some scientific investigation The prices at present had been fixed ad hoc and there was no uniformity, he advocated that the Provinces which had fixed h higher prices, should be asked to reduce their prices to a uniform level. The correct basis for fixing prices was cost of production and since the costs of production do not materially differ from one province to another, there was no case for differentiation, Nor did he subscribe to the view that the higher the prices the greater could be the production. Even inspite of 300-400 % increase in prices production has not gone up. That is why a scientific investigation was necessary. He was not in favour of a uniform. He also rebutted the argument that high prices were necessary for the working of controls. That would mean perpetuating controls. What was necessary, in his opinion,

was to have a uniform ystem of procruement based on uniform prices determined on the basis of cost of production. There should be simultenous reduction in price of industrial production Otherwise the cultivator would justly feel that while he was asked to reduce prices of his produce, the industrial goods e.g. cloth which he needed were very expensive.

As to Cotton prices, even if the presumption was correct that cottong and foodgrains prices were related their experience was that cottong prices had lagged behind foodprices. While the food prifes had gone up 60% since December, 1947, cotton prices had increased only 12% In his opinion India was more lily to achieve self-suufficiency in cotton rather than in food and the country might therefore try to ahheive self-sufficency at least in cotton.

The Honourable Minister from Bihar: was against any increase in the prices of cotton as that would have adverse repurcussions on the food prices. He felt that it was too early to fix kharif prices.

The Honourable Minister for Development from Orissa agreed with that view. As to foodgrain prices he was of the opinion that the present prices should continue for another two years because frequent changes would have an adverse affect on procurement. He referred to the disparity in prices in contiguous areas such as Madras and Orissa which was creating a bad effect on the procurment in Orissa. He, agreed that price fixation should be based on a scientific investigation by a committee set up by the Central Government.

The Honourable Minister (Civil Supplies) from West Bengal said that they had increased the prices of paddy but the increase had produced no significant improvement on last year procurement. He was against any increase in cottong prices.

The Honourable Minister from Assam was against any rise in cotton prices as well as any reduction in foodgrains prices but said that if such a thing was to be attempted at all it should be based on a scientific enquiry as suggested earlier.

The Honourable Minister for Civil Supplies from East Panjab

said that prices had a direct effect on the level of production and should be fixed in such a manner as not to affect production He was not in favour of fixing foodgrain prices in anticipation of the monsoon which would have a decisive effect on them. He agreed that the production of cotton had to be increased because 96% of the cotton areas in the United Panjab had gone to Pakistan but he felt that if cottoh prices were to be increased no reduction in foodgrains prices should be made otherwise foodgrains production would be affected.

The Honourable Minister from Cochin said that it was not possible to fix one price for a particular foodgrain for the whole of India. The only way to fix prices was to do so on a regional basis according to local conditions. He was of the opinion that prices must be related to the cost of production and should be fixed on a regional basis because conditions differed from one area to another. He agreed with Orissa and said that raising of the cottong price might ultimately affect the production of foodgrains.

The Honourable Minister from Travancore: described the conditions in the state and said that ~~the~~ cost of production there was very high becuase irrigation had to be done by emanual labour. The procurement prices had already been brought as low as they could and could not, be lowered further. He endorsed the suggestions made by the Honourable Minister from Bomabay for investigation into the cost of production in the various provinces and States.

The Honourable Minister (Civil Supplies) from Patiala and East Panjab States Union also endorsed the suggestion of H.M. Bombay and said that any increase in cotton prices would have the effect of reducing the area under foodgrains and ahamper the Grow More Food Campaign.

The Honourable Minister from Saurashtra said that the price level in Saurashtra was higher than in other provinces because cost of production was higher. The soil was poor, The crops which competed with foodgrains in Saurashtra, was groundnut, not cotton. He did not favour any reduction in prices becuase even the meagre margin of profit now available to the cultivator would diappear and he would have no incentive to produce more. He would probably start producing oilseeds. Price reduction at this stage would be a hinderance in the way of our achieving self sufficiency. Nor did he think that there was as much correlation between cotton and foodgrains prices as was made out by Bombay. He concluded by saying that if any reduction were to be effected it should be uniform and should be made at harvest time. He favoured the appointment of the Committee as proposed by Bombay.

The Honourable Minister from Hyderabad said that the attitude of Hyderabad would depend on the attitude of the neighbouring provinces and since Bombay, C.P. and Madras had all argued against any reduction in foodgrain prices, Hyderabad would endorse their view. In any case the prices in Hyderabad were already too low and were in some measure responsible for the fact that their procurement had not been more than 50% of the target. They were aiming at increasing the aread under foodcrops as well as cottong and groundnut. Even if cotton prices were increased he was confident that their food procurement would not suffer. The production of groundnut foodgrains and cotton had gone down and it had to be increased in all directions.

The Deputy Minister from Jammu and Kashmir said that the prices in thee state were already very low and should not therefore be reducfed further. As to cotton, although the state grew no cotton, but in order that cloth prices were kept at reasonable level he was opposed to any increase in cotton prices.

Shri Bhola Nath of Matsya Union: No reduction should be made in foodgrain prices until the prices of cotton seed, oilcake, kerosene etc. had been brought down,

The Honourable Minister (Home and Food) fromMysore agreed that prices must be fixed on a scientific basis. Although he agreed that the food prices should be brought down to break th vicious circle of inflation he was against any reduction in prices at this stage, becuase this would have the effect of reducing food production. He therefore pleaded for a postponment of a decision on this question.

The Chairman reviewed the discussion and proposed that a committee should be appointed to go into the matter. It was accordingly decided to appoint a committee consisting of the following:

1. Honourable Shri Dinkarrao Desai, Bombay.
2. Honourable Shri N. Kanungo, Orissa.
3. Honourable Mr. N.A. Shervani, U.P.
4. Hounourable Shri R.K. Patil, C.P.
5. Honoyrable Shri Madhava Menon, Madras.
6. Honourable Sardar Ujjal Singh, East Panjab.
7. Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Mysore.
8. Honourable Minister for Sourashtra.
9. Honourable Minister of Agriculture ? Hyderabad.
10. Secretary to the Government, Food Ministry.
11. Secretary to the Government, of India, Agriculture Ministtry.

The Chairman also made a reference to the opinion of the Honourable Minister from C.P. that acheivement of Food self-suffiencency by 1951 would present difficulties. He said that the country must achieve self-sufficiency by December 1951 and there would be no imports except to the limited extent provided in the Wheat agreement. The estumated increase required to make the country self-sufficient over the present level of production was only 10%. A number of other countries had increased their food production during the war. It was only by Changing our attitude and by the exercise of determination that we would make o ur hard won independence a reality. We brought about a revolution in the political sphere within 20-30 years. The same human qualities should be harnessed to achieve self-sufficiency and stop the drain on our reseroces of foreign exchange. All defeatism and depression should be eliminated and we should work in an optimistic spirit.

The Committee mentioned above met on Saturday to examine the question of foodgrains and cotton prices. The following three resolutions, based on the examination of the Committee, were moved by the Chairman.

The Conference is of opinion that it is too early to determine the prices of Kharif grains now. Those prices would remain in force during the Kharif year 1949-50 and it is difficult to visualize now the conditions which will prevail during that period. It is most important to know the prospects of the Kharif crops before any realistic prices can be fixed. The Conference, therefore, recommends that the prices for the Kharif grains should be fixed only after the Kharif crop propsects are known.

2. The Conference is opinion that cotton prices should be fixed in a manner which while bringing into cultivation lands which were under cotton but are at present lying fallow, would not divert land from foodgrains to cotton. As in case of foodgrain prices which will not be announced till crop propects are known, the cotton prices should be fixed and announced after the prospects of cotton crop are know, i.e., at about the same time as the foodgrain prices. It is, however, important to encourage substitutiion of medium and long staple cotton for short staple cotton as far as possible and it is desirable that relative differentials for all varieties may be announced immediately. As the fixation of these differentials which are under consideration will result in an increase of an appreciable percentage in the price of about three fourths of the cotton crop, the question has arisen as to in what terms the announcement can best be made in view of its possible effect on the food price situation. There is difference of opinion on this point. The representatives of C.P., Madras, East Panjab, Travancore, Cochin, Hyderabad, Patiala, East Panjab States, and Saurashtra are of the view that there should be no reference to any change in the level of the basic ceiling price. This should be left to be determined later. The representatives of Bombay, United Provinces, Bihar, Orissa, Matsya Union, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Bengal are of the view that the announcement should make it clear that the adoption of the higher differentials must not involve an overall increase in the prices of cotton.

3. The Conference is of the view that it is not proper to fix agricultural prices on an ad hoc basis and without a scientific investigation into the cost of cultivation, margin of profit to the cultivator and other cognate matters. The difficulties of conducting such an enquiry and the fact that it is likely to take some time have to be recognised but the Government of India should undertake such an enquiry as early as possible. Pending the result of such investigation the present system of fixing prices after considering the conditions prevailing in different provinces, the desirability of reducing the cost of living subject to the paramount consideration of increasing food production may be continued.

Item No. II Extension Service:

The Chairman referred to a note circulated on this item and said that the results of agricultural research did not at present actually reach the villagers nor was help and guidance made available in time becuase the link between the Government and the cultivators was not continuous. The proposed Extension Service had been devised to remedy that defect. It was proposed to create a non-official agency consisting of actual agriculturists and leaders of rural life who had the necessary experience and knowledge. These workers would be the agents for implementing the food production plans, and would be directly connected with the administration at various levels. The actual Organisation in the various Provinces would depend upon the circumstances in each locality; but the organisation at the village level needed, the circumstances in each locality, particular attention. The Chairman invited the views of the Conference on the proposal.

Honourable Minister (Agriculture) Bombay approved of the proposal subject to following remarks:-

1. He was not sure if the principle of election to the village Committee would work. It would take a long time before these organisations could be set up and he was not sure if the persons so elected would be suitable for the prupose in view. To begin with the thought that the principle of nomination of suitable officers would be better and suggested that instead of non-officials the Tehsildar should be the Chairman of the Tehsil Sub-Committee and the Collector, the Chairman of the District Committee. Agricultural Officers should work as Secretaries of the Tehsil and District Committees.

3. Every Committee whether at the District or Provincial level should be a business organisation with a small compact membership.

also made a reference to the re-organisation of the Agriculture Departments and said that the District Agricultural Officer should at least be Class II Officers if they were to play any useful role.

The Honourable Minister (Home and Food) from Mysore described the Rural Development Organisation in the State.

He said that the main features of the Organisation were that there were Taluka Development Committees, District Development Committees and a Central Development Committee. The Taluka Development Committees in Mysore were assisted by the Inspector Cooperative Societies, the local Agricultural Officer and the Assistant Inspector of Education. The Committees were presided over by the Tehsildars. They reviewed the plans for the last month and prepared plans for the next month and placed the decisions before the Taluka Development Committee. The decisions were executed by the officers at the district level. The Chairman of each Taluka Development Comittee was member of the District Development Committee. Five leading non-officails, the Legislative Council Member and the District Board President were also members of the District Development Committee with a non-officials as the Chairman, Similarly the Chairman of each District Development Committee was a member of the Central Development Committee. There was also a Central Coordination Committee. There were other Organisations like Taluka Cooperative Societies which ehlped in the distribution of raw materials etc. as well as in marketing the produce of that particular area. Commenting on the Scheme prepared he agreed to the principle of nomination instead of election to these Committees. He emphasised the need for fuidance to the cultivators by the State at every step. He handed over a note drafted by him in this connection.

The Honourable Chairman s ggested that the scheme prepared by Mysore should be circulated to all the members.

The Honourable Minister (Development) from Orissa suggested that the note circulated at the Conference should be sent to the Provinces and their suggestions as to the type of Extension Services they wanted should be invited. Then a small Committee should be appointed consisting of the members of the Central Legislature and other Organisations interested in Agriculture, to examine these comments.

The Honourable Minister from Assam approved of the note circulated. He said that in his Province about 200 food production Committees had been set up to correlate the activities of the various departments; but they had not been of very great use becausd they had not been able to meet the various difficulties of the cultivators such as lack of bullocks etc.

The Chairman concluded the discussion by Suggesting that the existing Provincial schemes might be examined and the reactions of the Provinces obtained to the proposal circulated. Thereafter all the available materials should be examined by a small Committee which should meet qucikly and finalise the scheme. Then the Scheme would be sent to all the Provinces and States for any changes they might make.

This was accepted by the Conference.

Item III linking of procurement of food grains with the supply of controlled materials.

The Chairman explained that there was general agreement that unless the cultivator was supplied with the materials he needed at a reasonable cost he might not fully cooperate in the matter of production of procurement. Realising the necdssity of time supply of agricultural requsities the Government of India had appointed a special Officer at the Centre to ascertain the needs of the Provinces of such essential raw materials as iron, steel, etc. and also to help in the movement of these commodities. With regard to procurement helfelt that some inducement to the cultivators would perhaps be necessary. Some Provinces had already made a beginning in this direction. The proposal now was that this inducement should be on some systematic lines.

The Honourable Minister (Civil Supplies) from East Panjab expressed the view that the linking of the supply of raw materiaal with procurement might in practice hinder rather than help procurement in case the quantities promised were not supplied. It was explained to him that it was not intended that every cultivator who supplied grains was to be given particular quantities of agricultural requisites but the idea was merely to fuse a spirit of competition amongst them. The Honourable Minister from the East Panjab was however of the openion that if an inducement was to be offered it would be better ~~of officer~~ to after it in the form of schools and hospitals.

Honourable Minister (home and food) Mysore: also did not favour linking of procurement with the supply of raw materails. He suggested that in every village or a group of villages Government should establish an Organisation from which the cultivator could take his requirement.

The Honourable Minister (Development) from Orissa also was against the proposed linking up. The proposal in his opinion might encourage hoarding.

The Hounourable Minister Cochin was also of the same view and said that procrement without pressure would be a success.

Honourable Minister (Agriculture) Bombay agreed that the proposed linking up of supply of raw materaisl with procurement would be an advantage. He suggested that on the basis of the quantitity procured from a cultivator he shiuld be given a certificate on the production of which he whould be able to purchase his agricultural requisites. He quoted the example of Bombay where prizes of Rs.10,000 and Rs.5,000 had been awarded to villages which had supplied grain up to the amount levied.

The Chairman said that no formal resolution on this matter was called for. The Provinces ~~were~~ were in favour of the proposals might adopt it. who

Item IV Decrease in cropped area and Increase in fallow land.

The Chairman suggested that the matter was important from the point of view of agricultural production and that Committee should be appointed to go into the matter. There might also be regional Committees at which the Provinces concerned might be represented. This was approved.

Item V. Supply of Agricultural statistics in time:

The Chairman explained that the Provinces should try and improve their agricultural statistics as well as send them to the Centre in time. In anticipation of the World census of Agricultural Statistics in whish India was participating he requested the Provincial and State Ministers to organise their machinery for this purpose.

Lor John Boyd Orr, the former Director General of Fa.A.O. attended the Conference at 5-30 P.M.

The Chairman introducted Lord Boyd Orr as one who was known to all who had taken any interest in the problem of agriculture foand food. As Birector- General of the F.A.O. and as a partical farmer who owned about a thousand acres of his own land he had acquired great knowledge and experience of the problems of agriculture. The Government of India had thought it advantageous to invite him for advice on their food production plan. They had come to a definite and considered decision that our dependence on imports of foreign foodgrains should be terminated within a certain time limit. From the purely national point of view it was a decision of the highest priority. The problem of food was however not only a problem of feeding our population, but also of national secturity and dfence. Economic insecurity born of economic want led to discontent and discontent in a country with the population of the size of India's could not but be a problem of major international importance. India had now fixed a date for self-sufficiency. The whole world would be watching the outcome of this decision. There were indeed bottle-necks and hinderances, but if the necessary will was forthcoming these bottle-necks could be removed. The country would have to stir up and utilise all the sentimental, psychological and emotional resources in order to meet this challencge. With these wo rds the Chairman invited Lord Boyd Orr address the meeting.

Lord Boyd Orr: referred to the achievement of the Government of India in the political sphere and said that a govern ment which in the short time after independence had tackled all the difficulties which followed the partitiion of the country and had remained a stable government, could quite confidently takcled thefood problem also. The task before them was very great. The Indian people had been notirious for being ill-fed, ill-clothed and ill-housed. The populaton was also increasing at a rate at which in the next ten to fifteen years the production of food would have to be doubled.

From his experience he knew that economic discontentment in the world was linked up with good or bad harvests. The political aspect of providing food for the population was therefore of very great importance. For the attainement of self-sufficiency by 1951, the Government would have to endeavour and give the highest priority to this problem. Plans would have to be carried out without delay. He had examined the plans and was of the opinion that they were on the right lines. He was convinced that the expert opinion available to the Government of India was of a very high order. He advised that we should not depend too much on outsiders. The success of the plan depended entirely on local effort. He sincerely hoped that not only would India attain the target but also exceed it by half a million tons.

The Chairman invited the representatives of the Provinces and States to express their views as to the problems facing them.

The Honourable Minister from Madras: informed the conference that they had taken up a scheme of excavating 26,000 tanks which had gone into disuse. They had undertaken legislation for the acquisition of this land and for the summary disposal of disputes. The cost involved in restoring these tanks would be Rs.19 crores, but if the tanks could be excavated Madras could become self-sufficient.

The Honourable Minister (Civil Supplies) from East Panjab outlined the programmed in that province for meeting the deficit which amounted to 10% of the present production in that province. He mentioned the following points:

(1) sinking of 30,000 surface wells;
(2) sinking of 1,000 tube-wells;
(3) reclamation of 5 lakh acres of waste land.

He drew attention to their need for fertilisers.

The Honourable Minister (Agriculture) from Mysore outlined the projects being undertaken in the State as follows

(1) Reclamation of 3 laksh acres of land for which they wanted tractors.

(2) Construction of minor irrigation projects like dams, anicuts, and repair of tanks and said that in the next ten years they hoped to repair 5,000 tanks.

(3) Supply of cheap electricity of the cultivators for working their pumping sets.

The Honourable Minister from Central Provinces raised the following points:

i. wehter Lord Boyd Orr considered that for achieving the target it was necessary to concentrate all our energy on food production alone or whether we could pay attention as now, to all round devlopment and still achieve it

ii. whether it was better to concentrate on land relamation or on getting more returns by the intensive cultivation of lands already under cultivation;

iii. whether the necessary foreign finance would be available to India to buy tractors, oil engines etc.

The Honourable Minister from Bihar gave an outline of the schemes in his province and mentioned:-

i. Long term schemes like the Damodar Valley Project which could take time to mature;

ii. Short term shcme like the construction of 1,000 tube-wells from which it was expected that 5 lakh acres of land would be irrigated.

iii. Relcamation of waste land with tractors.

The Honourable Minister (Food and Civil Supplies) from Bombay corrected what he considered to be a mistaken impression, namely, that the Provincial Ministries were not active enough in the matter of food production. He said that they were putting forward all possible efforts for the increase of food within the limits of their power. He referred to the hundreds of wells which had been dug, a hundred monor irrigation schemes which had been put into effect and the manner in which they had sucessfully fought the food and fodder famine which threatened them this year. The food problem boiled down to obtaining the necessary materials. It was up to the more developed countries to come to the help of India in tis matter.

Lor Boyd Orr replied to the points raised as follows:
i. Although all round development was undoubtedly necessary, he himself would give food and first priority.

ii. As between land reclamation and intensive cultivation, he said, we should concentrate on both.

iii. He agreed that India needed help in materials and machinery and the developed countries should undoubtedly make these things available to India.

The Chairman thanked Lord Boyd Orr for having come to India at such a short notice and having studied the food problem and also having participated in the conference. The Conference rose for to-day.

The Food Production Plans.

The Conference met again on 1st May.

The Chairman referred to two specific matters in connection with the food production plans:-

1. The targets which had been fixed in consultation with the provincial representatives and whether any modfications were necessary or called for and

2. The utility of giving psychological and materials inducement to cultivators for producing more food. He mentioned various possibilites such as certificates medals, prizes, the award of National Flag, exemption from land revenue or schools, hospitals.

The Chairman invited the views of the representatives on these two ponts. He again mentioned that in order to expedite the movemnt of essential raw materials the Central Government had appointed a Specail Officer. He said that it would probably be useful if a special officer were appointed in each Province and States for the same purpose.

The Honourable Minister from U.P. said that they were in favour of giving some kind of inducements to cultivators for increasing food production. They had already instituted prizes in their Province and had found that the results of the compeitition had been very satisfactory. The maximum yield per acre of potatoes had gone up from 300 maunds to 548 maunds in one year and of sugarcane upto 1800 maunds an acre. The Province was very greatly handicapped in its efforts on account of difficulties of transport as also insufficiency of the materials allocated for agricultural purposes. He welcomed the appointment of a Special Officer for movements and allocations of raw materials and said that such movements should have the highest priority.

The Honourable Minister from C.P. and Berar made the following points:-

1. The nieghbouring Provinces were exercising a pull on ground-nut cake producted in the Central Provinces. He emphasised that there should be a uhiform price for gound-nut cake in all the Provinces.

2, In fixing ~~the~~ quotas of foodgrains to the Provinces it was suggested that in so far as deficit areas were concerned the additional quantity of foodgrains which that area would produce under the self-sufficiency plan should be taken away from its allocations.

3. He feared that production had been underestimated everywhere and suggested the appointment of an impartial agency to assesss production.

Honourable Minister Madras agreed that some sort of incentive to cultivaros would be useful and said that in their Province they were considering a scheme by which any area which give 15% more than the average of the past three years would be given a prize.

2. He mentioned that shortage of agricultural implements was hindering the production of food and should be remedied.

3. He could not agree with the suggestion made by the U.P. Government that in the self-sufficiency plan the surplus Province should be permitted to retain more and the allocations to the deficit Provinces should be reduced proportionately to the additional production. He thought that the result of such measure would be that the surplus Province would become more surpluls and the deficit Provinces more deficit.

4. The policy of control of ground-nut cake was amistake and has reduced production ~~and there~~ Madras Province.

5. For the ~~tank~~-excavation scheme of the Madras Province they required financial aid from the Centre.

Honourable Minister Bihar: made the following points:

1. He approved of the proposal to give an incentive to cultivators and said that the remission of land revenue would be a suitable incentive but further suggested that the amount so remitted should be spent on the land itself.
2. He referred to their difficulties in getting the requisite qunatities of iron, steel, cement etc.
3. He said that there was a prejudice in the minds of cultivators regarding the use of chemical fertilisers and suggested that it would be useful if Lor Boyd Lord Orr could make a statement before leaving India on the utility of chemical fertilisers.

Honourable Minister (Development) Orissa accepted the target of 73,000 tons fixed for the Province. In this connection he mentioned the following ponts:-

1. He said that if cheap credit at a maximum rate of 5% could e given to the farmers the target could be doubled.
2. He exphasised the desirability of subsidising the production of bullocks. The Province was deficit in bullocks and tractors were not a substitute for bullocks in that Province.
3. The Chairman asked for a concrete scheme which could be considered by the Centre. He suggested that tractors and earth moving equipment should be made availabel to the Province on a lease and land basis. He also suggested the establishment of a Central pool of oilcakes.
5. He mentioned that a scheme of instituting prizes in the Province had been prepared and would be sent to the Centre after the Province had seen how it worked.

6. He referred to the method of giving procurement bonus and said that it worked unfavourably for provinces like Orissa where there was no rationing.

The Honourable Minister (Civil Supplies) from West Bengal:

1. Accepted the scheme for giving prizes for production and procurement and suggested that inducements should take the shape of hospitals, schools, village, roads etc.
2. Emphasised their requirements of manure in the form of oilcakes and endorsed the view that there should be Central Pool for oilcakes.
3. Mentioned that a Movement Sponsoring Authority had been created in the Province to control the movement of foodstuffs and other materials but the trasport bootenect was still there.
4. Exphasised their requrements of green-manure, seeds and seed-potatoes.

The Honourable Minister from Assam:-

1. Did not favour the remission of land revenue as an incentive because the main income of the Province was derived from that source. On the contrary last year he had asked the Provincial Government to increase land revenue as an anti-inflationery measure. He suggested that the cultivator may be helped in the Supply of consumer goods such as C.I. Sheets etc.
2. Drew attention to the difficulties of the cultivatorss such as lack of bullocks, credit etc.
3. Requested the Central Government to give machinery to the Provincail Government for reclaiming land; but pointed out that the common impression that Assam had a lot of waste- land was erroneous.
4. Mentioned that the Assam Government were thinking of starting a milk production scheme on the same lines as Bombay.
5. Referred to the damage done by pests like the Cateriller and said that the methods suggested by the Scientists have not proved very practicable.

Finally he said that in spite of these difficulties the Assam Government were confident that they would achieve the target fixed for them.

The Honourable Minister (Civil Supplies) from East Panjab: explained that the shortage of foodgrains in the East Panjab was about 1-1/2 lakh tons and they proposed to meet this shortage by 1951 by the following methods:-

1. Production of pure-seeds. They were going to have 15 thousand acres of land under seed farms andhad also passed Legislation making the use of improved seeds comuplsory;
2. Compusory collecton of waste and twn-sweepings and their preparation into compost.
3. Distribution of green-manure seeds.
4. Provision of irrigation facilities:-
   (a) They had a scheme of sinking 30 thousand percolation wells. In this connection he drew attention to the fact that the Province had no coal for burning the bricks required for the sinking of these wells;
   (b) Sinking of 1000 tubewells. It was explained that the East Panjab Government proposed to instal Diesel Engines to work these tubewells pending the provision of electricity.
5. Eradication of weeds and destruction of pests. It was understood that the Province was proposing to enact Legislation for the control of pests as well as compelling the Zamindars to eradicate the weeds.
6. Land reclamation- It was proposed to bring under cultvation 5 lakh acres of waste-land and requested the Central Government to give more tractors to them. He also pointed out that the charges levied by the Central Government should be examined carefully to see that they were not excessive.

He agreed that it would be useful to provide an incentive to the cultivators in the form of prizes and remission of land revenue to the village which showed the best results.

He further suggested that lands not cultivated by land

owners should be compulsorily taken by the Government in the interest of food production and that the Government should devise a scheme for the production of credit facilities to the cultivators.

The Honourable Minister (Agriculture) from Bombay was of the opinion that the selfsufficiency plan could be made a success only if the top most priority was given to Agriculture. He mentioned the trasport difficulties which were responsible for a number of commodities not moving. He cited example; groundnut cake was laying with the mills in Bomabay and could not move. Similarly there were difficulties with regard to movement of cement, macinery etc.

He agreed that these incentives were useful and mentioned that the Bombay Government had already instituted a scheme of giving prises should to individual cultitors. He was prepared to accept the suggestion that prizes should also be given at the village level; but he did not think prizes at the Tahsil level would be of any use. He suggested that prizes should rather be given in cash so that the villagers were able to utilise the money for such purposes as buliding of schools or hospitals etc. He further mentioned the desirability of not merely confining to cereals but also undertaking schmes for growing subsidiary foodcrops such as bananas and sweet potatoes ~~undertaking schemes for growing subsidiary foodcrops such as banans and sweet potatoes~~ the yield from which was very much higher than from cerals. Finally he emphasised the necessity of starting soil conservation measures and said that both the Central and Provincial Governments should take up these measures in right earnest because soil conservation had an important bearing on yields.

The Honourable Minister from Cochin: mentioned: that
1. That 20,000 acres of new land had been brought under cultivation under the Grow More Food Campaign and they proposed to encrease the areas by reclaiming another 60,000 acres provided the Central Government would given them machinery.
2. That they had undertaken three major irrigation schemes and also distribution of manure mixture on the lines of Bombay and had also introducted gree-manuring.
3. They had schemes for seed multiplication.
4. He undertaken to produce 80,000 tons of Tapiaco Yam and seem potatoes.
5. Had a programmed of producing 10,000 tons of compost this year. For the distribution of compost and manure they were giving training to primary school teachers, 200 of suhh teachers had already been trained.
6. With regard to incentives they were in favour of giving subsidies for manure seeds and agricultural implements rather than make remission of land revenues.

The Honourable Minister from Travancore: said that they were prepared to do their best to bring the country to a stage of self sufficiency but like Cohhin, Travancore needed financial assistance from the Centre. They would also need fertilsers and bone meals or gourndnut cake.

The Honourable Minister (Civil Supplies) for Patiala and East Panjab States Union: said that the Union was surplus and had exported this year 155,000 tons of foodgrains. They could increase the exports provided the Central Government give timely help in finding for them coal and irons for the sinking of wells and the manufacure of improved implements. He also drew attention to the necessity of setting up good workshops within a reasonable distance of the area of the operation of tractors.

The Honourable Minister Saurashtra mentioned the following points:

1. They were undertaking land reclamation and had promised remission of land revenue on a sliding scale over nine years for the land so reclaimed. They expected that withing two years they would be able to reclaim 50,000 acres whih could give 15,000 tons of foodgrains.
2. They were subsidising the sinking of wells and were giving 50% of the cost as subsidy and the balance as laons.
3. They were subsidising the manufacture of compost.
4. They had a schme of model farms in a group of villages for the production of new seeds and manures. The experiments were subsidised by the State.
. They had schmes of irrigation and bunding which would cost s. one corore over the next 2-3 years. For this he requested hat the Central Government should help.
. They wanted to sink tubewells but had neither the oring machines nor the technical advice necessary.
. They had in hand 5 big irrigation projects of which two ad already started and would be completed within the next hree years. They expected an additional 35,000 tons of oodgrains from these measures.
. They had undertaken a cattle breeding schme but there as lack of trained personnel and finance.

he Honourable Minister Hyderabad said that their total equirements of foodgrains were 25 lakh tons and they were ready producing 23 lakh tons. Their deficit was only two akh tons and they were hopeful that it would be made up uring the next two or three years. The following measures ere contemplated to make up the deficiency:-

- Nizam Sagar which was only irrigating 1½ lakh acres for he present could irrigate three lakh acres but for this rupose a help from the Centre was needed.
2. There was ~~alok~~ of bullock power in the State. Cultivation machinery would therefore be needed as a substitute but at present they had only eight tractors in the whole state. They had ordered 40 tractors and requested the Centre to supply them.
3. They had taken in hand irrigation works which would cost about Rs.3 cerores and during the next two or three years would bring under cultivation one lakh acres. For minor irrigation projects such as wells etc. they had decided to grant a subsidy upto 50% of the cost and if necessary grant the rest as a long term loan.

4. The lands which had gone out of cultivation on account of the migration of people were likley to be brought under cultivation because people were now returning.
5. They wanted chemical fertilsers, irons and steel etc. A list of their requirements had been handed over to the Central Government.

With regard to cotton and ground-nuts, Hyderabd was in a very strong position but on account of disturbances the area had gone down. It was, however expected that with the retunn of normal conditions the area which had gone out of cultivation would be brought under cultivation in the next two or three years.

The Deputy Minister from Jammu and Kashmir said that they proposed to bring under cultivation an additional 50,000 acres of land immediately, if implements could be given to them. They had about 1,50,000 acres of fallow land fit for mechanical cultivation.
2. They had also taken up Militiary farms and were putting them under cultivation.
3. They had also taken up some minior irrigation projects.
4. They required machinery like dredgers to combat the floods in the Kashmir Province.

If tractors were made available to the state, not only the deficit of 40,000 tons per year could be wiped out, but the state could even be surplus.

Honourable Minister (Home and Food) Mysore Emphasised the need for coordina tion at the Centre and Provincial levels and the appointment of Planning Committees.

2. Guaranteeing of reasonable prices and returns to the cultivator so that the tendency to drift to industrial employment was checked;

3. The necessity of enacting legislation for giving security of tenure to the cultivtor;

4. Prohibiting the use of cow-dung as fuel as well as prohibiting the cutting down of trees.

5. Appointing an Engineer at the Tehsil or district level for helping the villagers in preventing erosion etc;

6. The Central Government to guide and advise the Provinces and see that the plans prepared by them were executed.

The Honourable Minister (Agriculture) from Mysore very strongly emphasised the need of retaining the present price level. He was altogether opposed to any lowering of the prices but emphasised that disparities in price level should be done away with.

The Chairman thanked the representatives and re-iterated that the decision to end our dependence on foreign foodgrains by 1951 must be implemented. He admitted that these were certain pre-requisites for increasing production. With regard to the supply of materials and their movement he suggested that the Provinces should send specific demands to the Centre within the next two or three weeks.

He also drew a section of the [illegible] the administrative machinery in order to meet this emergency. Whether they shiuld appoint speical officers for procurement of materials or reorganise their departments of Agriculture would be decided by the Provinces alone in the light of their circumstances.

Finally he paid a tribut to the administrative machinery available to the Centre and the Provinces. He said that the services had inherited a traditition of efficient service and continue to be an asset to the Centre as well as to the Provinces. People were looking up to them to see how they reacted to the new situation when power had been transferred to the pople themselves. He was confidnent that this band of efficient men would be able to tackel all the bottle-necks and hindrances.

The conference come to a close at 1 P.M. on the 1st May 1949.

THE END.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

LIST OF PERSONS WHO ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE ON THE 30TH APRIL and 1ST MAY, 1949.

..*.*.*

Ministry of Agriculture:

1. Shri Jairamdas Daultram, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India, (Chairman)
2. Shri K.L. Panjabi, I.C.S., Secretary.
3. Shri Datar Singh, Vice Chairman, I.C.A.R. & Additional Secretary
4. Shri B.R. Sethi, Agricultural Development Commissioner.
5. Shri H.C. Sharma, Deputy Secretary.
6. Shri W.R. Natu, Economic and Statistics Adviser.
7. Shri J.S. Raj, Deputy Economic and Statistics Adviser.
8. Shri A.R. Vyas, Deputy Principal Information Officer.

Ministry of Food:

1. Shri R.L. Gupta, I.C.S. Secretary.
2. Shri C.P.K. Menon, Director-General, Food.
3. Shri K.R. Damle, I.C.S., Joint Secretary.
4. Shri K.L. Saxena, Joint Financial Adviser.
5. Shri S.K. Sen, Deputy Secretary.
6. Shri N.G. Abhyankar, Food Councillor, Indian Embassy, Washington.
7. Shri S.K. Basu, Food Councillor, High Commissioner's Office, London
8. Shri M.L. Sinha, Director of Imports.
9. Shri R.K.L, Nandkeolyar, R.F.C., Calcutta.
10. Shri Mahboob Mian, R.F.C., Madras.
11. Shri J.J. Mohjwani, R.R. C., Bombay.
12. Dr. V.S. Puri, Dy. R.F.C., Central Region.
13. Shri M.L. Puri, Dy. R.F.C., Simla.
14. Shri M.G. Ghose, Dy. R.F.C., Rajkot.
15. Shri A.N. Dube, Dy. R.F.C., Rajputana, Abu.
16. Shri Suraj Bhan, Dy. R.F.C., Rajputana.
17. Shri D.B. Sayal, Dy. R.F .C., Indore.
18. Shri K.N. Channa, Under Secretary.
19. Shri P.C. Zachariah, Under Secretary.

Ministry of Industry and Supply.

1. Shri M.P. Pai, I.C.S., Joint Secretary.

Ministry of Commerce;

1. Shri C.C. Desai, I.C.S., Secretary.

Ministry of Finance:

1. Shri G. Mathias, Deputy Secretary.
2. Shri P.J. Thomas, Economic Adviser.

Provincial Representatives:

1. Honourable Shri K.Madhava Menon, Minister for Madras Agricultur

U.P

2. Honourable Shri N.A. Sherwani, Minister for Agriculture.
3. Shri Bhagwan Sahay, I.C.S., Commissioner for Civil Supplies.

Bihar.

4. Honourable Shri Syed Mahmood, Minister for Agriculture.
5. Shri H.Lal, Secretary, Development Department.
6. Shri J.S. Patel, Director of Agriculture.
7. Shri P.K. Mitra, Secretary, Supply and Price Control Department

Orissa.

8. Honourable Shri Sadasiab Tripathy, Minister for Supply.
9. Honourable Shri N.Khungo, Minister for Development.

West Bengal.

10. Honourable Shri Profulla Chandra Sen, Minister for Civil Supply.
11. Honourable Shri J.N. Panja, Minister for Agriculture.
12. Shri S.K. Dey, Secretary, Agriculture Department.

East Panjab.

13. Honourable Shri ~~Jugal~~ Ujjal Singh, Minister for Industries and Civil Supplies.
14. Honourable Sardar Gurbachan Singh, Minister for Agricultu
15. Sardar ~~Lalka~~ Singh, Director of Agriculture.
16. Shri R.L. Anand, Economic Adviser.

Assam.

17. Honourable Shri Omeo Kumar Das, minister for Agriculture.

Central Provinces.

18. Honourable Shri R.K. Patil, Minister for Food and Agriculture.
19. Hhri S.P. Meshram, Secretary, Food and Agriculture Department.

Bombay.

20 Honourable Shri M.P. Patil, Minister for Agriculture and Forests.
21. Honourable Shri D.N. Desai, Minister for Food and Civil Supplies.

)cal Administrations.

22. Shri D. Mathur, Secretary (Civil Supplies) to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.
23. Shri K.T. Uttapah, Director of Tationing, Coorg.
24. Shri E.P. Moon, Dy. Chief Commissioner, Himchal Pradesh.

States Representatives:

Cochin.

1. Honourable Shri Eikkanda Warriar, Prime Minister.

Tranvancore

2. Honourable Shri V.O. Markos, Minister for Food and Agriculture.

P.E.P.S.U.

3. Honourable Shri Ram Nath, Minister for Civil Supply.
4. Honourable Sardar Raghbir Singh, Minister for Agriculture.
5. Shri B.R. Patel, Chief Secretary.
6. Shri Kartar Singh, Director of Agriculture.
7. Shri Kashi Ram, Under Secretary, Civil Supplies Department.
8. Honourable Shri G.B. Kotak, Minister for Food and Agriculture (Sourashtra)

Hyderabad

9. Honourable Shri P.N. Krishna Rao, Minister for Food and Supply.
10. Shri Nagendra Bahadur, Secretary, Rural Reconstruction Dept.
11. Shri P. Venkaraman, Dy. Fin. Adviser, Supplies.

Jammu and Kashmir.

12. Honourable Lt. Col. Baldev Singh, Dy. Food Minister.
13. Shri Hari Ram Sharma, Under Secretary, Food Department.
14. Mr. Kartar Singh Rana.

Matsya Union.

15 Honourable Shri Bhola Nath, Minsiter for Public Works and Supply.

Mysore.

16 Honourable Shri Mariappa, Minister for Home and Food.
17. Honourable Shri H. Siddiaya, Minister for Agriculture.

Rajastahan.

18. Sardar Labh Singh, Director of Agriculture.
19. Col.B.Sinha, Supplies Commissioner.

True Copy.

FOOD DEPARTMENT.

Note File:

Sub: Conferences- Food and Agriculture Minister's Conference held at New Delhi on 30-4-49 and 1-5-49.- Proceedings of the Conference.

Ref: From the Government of India, No.F.25/6/49 ~~EMF~~ dated 25-6-1949.

A Copy of the proceedings of the Conference of the Food and Agricultural Ministers held at New Delhi on 30-4-1949 and 1-5-49 enclosed with the Government of India letter cited is submitted in the c.f. for perusal. The previous papers relating to the Conference are put up at (X) The conference was attended by Hon. Sri.K. Madhava Menon, then H.M. for agri. and the Food Secretary.

The Agenda for the Conference was as follows:-

(1) Fixation of grain prices for the Kharif Crop 1949-50
(2) A scheme for an Extension Service
(3) Linking of procurement of grain with the supply of controlled materials.
(4) Decrease in the cropped area and increase in fallow land.
(5) Delays in the submission of figures of land utilization by the Provinces.

Items (1) and (3) above.

Extracts may be given to Prices section for necessary action, as that section is concerned with these items.

Item (2) above.

The purpose of extension service is to see that the results of agricultural research reach the villager. A non official agency consistaing of actual agricuturists and leaders of rural life was suggested toact as link between the Government and the ryots. The details of the organisation will have to be worked out.

Decision reached at the Conference: The Chairman Concluded the discussion by suggesting that the existing Provincial schemes might be examined and the reactions of the Provinces obtained to the proposal circulated. Thereafter all the available material should be examined by a small Committee which should meet quickly and finalise the scheme. Then the scheme would be sent to all the Provinces and States for any changes they might make. This was accepted by the Conference.

The scheme relating to 'Extension Service' has been discussed also at the Bombay conference held subsequently on 30-6-1949 and 1-7-49 and will be dealt with in that case. No action is called for in this file.

Item 4 above: Decision reached: The chairman suggested that the matter was important from the point of view of agricultural production and that a Committee should be appointed to go into the matter. There might also be regional Committees at which the Provinces concerned might be represented. This was approved.

The Government of India have since called for nomination to this Committee and the matter is separately under consideration.

Item 5 above: Public (E & S) is concerned.

2. During the secondday's meeting of the Conference the following items were discussed in connection with the Food Prodiction Drive:-

(1) whether any modifications were necessary to the targets already fixed in consultation with the Provincial and State representatives and

(2) the methods to be adopted for the purpose of stimulating the ryot to produce more food.

As regards itme 1 above, the D.A., Madras estimated that a target of additional production of 8-5 lakhs tons was possible of achievement by 1951. The Board of Revenue has since furnished revised figures to the effect that only 5.5 lakhs tons of additional foodgrains are possible of acheivement. The Board's figures are stated by the Commissioner fof Food Production to have been accepted by the Government of India at the Bombay Concerence. No action hherefore seems necessary, as the target approved by the Commissioner of Food production are being sent on to India, with the Emergency Two Year plan.

With reference to ite[illegible] the quarter of awarding prizes to the ryots for better cultivation is separately under consideration. No separate action is necessary. The question of waiving land revenue on lands newly brought under cultivation as an incentive to the ryots is one for consideration in Revenue who have been asked separately to indicate the stage at which the question stands.

Public (E & S) may see for necessary action or remarks on item 5 on p.1. overleaf. after circulation.

Item (1) at p.1 above:

Fixation of grain prices for the Kharif crop:

M on p 6 cf. This Governmenr have laready decided with the approval of the Government of India to revise prices with reference to the fasli year instead of the Khariff year. They have also informed India that the exisfing village site prices will be continued for the fasli year 1949-50 but that slight changes will be made in the F.O.R. and wholesale prices by excluding the funny from the prices schedule and by slightly revising the margin of allowances to the middlemen and the outturn of rice from paddy with reference to the experiments recently conducted at a place near Avadi. No separate action is called for in this file.

Item (3) at p.1 above:

The suggestion regarding the supply of controlled articles like cotton textiles, Kerosene, iron, steel and cement to producers of foodgrains with a view to step up procurement is nothing new. The Government of India officially called for the views of this Government on this suggestion as far back as August 1948 that is some time prior to the Food Conference held at New Delhi, late in Septmeber 1948 when the decision to reimpose food controls was taken. This question was examined and for the reasons explained in this Department's letter No.37101-A/48-7 dated 10-10-48 the Government of India were informed that this Government considered that the proposal to link up procurement of foodgrains with the distribution of cotton textiles, kerosene and iron steel and cement was neither practicable nor necessary in Madras Province. There seems to be no need to reopen this question again. For Orders.

The above notes on the the proceedings of the Food and Agriculture Minister's Conference held at New Delhi on 30th April and 1st May 1949 may be circulated to H.M's Agriculture and Food for perusal.

To A.S. With reference to order at Z on p 1 ante a draft memo is submitted below for approval. After issue the file may now be sent to Public (E & S) for necessary action or remarks. on items is on p 1 ante. as ordered at X on p 2 ante. They may take relavants extracts for further action.

To R.O

Public (E & S) Dept.

Reference Food and Agriculture department's notes at 'M' above. Relevant extracts (Item 5 on p 1 ante) have been taken for further action. This file may be re trasmitted to Food and Agriculture Department.

Food & Agri. Dept.

To A.S.

Relevant extracts (Item 5 on p 1 ante) have been taken by the Public (E.& S) Department for further action. No further action therefore seems called for on this. The papers may be recorded for orders.

G.O. No. 1227, F.A. 24-10-49.
Conferences- Food And Agri-Ministers' conference held at New Delhi on 30-4-49 and 1-5-49- Proceedings of the Conference - Papers- Recorded.

True Copy

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

MG

3/17

No. F.25-6/49-G.M.F.
Government of India,
Ministry of Agriculture,
New Delhi, the 29th August, 1949.

Shri S.T. Raja, B.A., LL.B., Bar-at-law,
Under Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture,
Government of India.

To

All Provincial Governments and the Government of Union of Travancore & Cochin, PEPSU, Saurashtra, Hyderabad, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Mysore, Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh. All the Chief Commissioners.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the final proceedings of the above conference forwarded with this Ministry letter of even number dated the 25/30th June, 1949 and to request that the following amendments may kindly be carried out therein:-

(1) Page 2 of the list of persons who attended the conference appended to the proceedings:- Please read "Shri S.P. Mushran" for "Shri S.P.Meshram" appearing under 'Central Provinces'.

(2) Page 9 Portion relating to H.M.from Assam-para1- Please substitute the following sentence for the second sentence therein:-

"Last year the Central Government directed the Provincial Governments to increase the land revenue as a method of fighting inflation, though it was not adopted in Assam. This suggestion was to be examined by Finance Department of the Government of India".

Yours faithfully,

Sd.

Under Secretary.

Copy forwarded for information to the Ministry of Food and Ministry of States.

By Order,

Sd.

Under Secretary.

True Copy.